GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1625
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2000
ILL EFFECTS OF FERTILIZERS
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH;RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the brown rust diseases and fertilizers` imbalances are on sharp rise in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted to check the ill effects of fertilizers and pesticides;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the remedial steps taken/being taken by the Government in this connection?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) & (b); No, Sir. There has been no sharp rise in the incidence of brown rust in wheat in recent years. However, towards the end of Crop season during 1998-99, brown rust was observed in some of the old susceptible varieties in central and peninsular zones. In North West plain Zones (Punjab) brown rust was noticed in wheat variety HB 2329.However, in the variety PBW 343, which occupies maximum area in the state, no rust was reported. The brown rust was also observed in Kanpur (U.P.) and Jai Nagar of Himachal Pradesh.

In case of fertilizers, there has been improvement in balance use of plant nutrients during recent years. The NPK ratio which was 9.5:3.2:1 during 1992-93 has narrowed down to 6.9:2.7:1 (Estt.) during the year 1999-2000, which is indicative of the improved use of Phosphate and Potash.

(c) to (f): Govt. of India regularly monitors the consumption of fertilizers and use of pesticides in the country. At the present national level of 90.04 Kg. per hec.(1998-99- estimated), NPK consumption, no ill effects have been observed. To ensure efficient and profitable use of plant nutrients, the concepts of integrated plant nutrient management and soil test based fertilizer application are being propagated.

To avoid any possible ill effects due to the use of chemical pesticides, Government is advocating the integrated pest management (IPM) practices. Under this strategy, the pest problems are being solved by using non chemical methods such as use of resistant crop varieties, natural parasites and predators. Only need based judicious use of safe chemicals is advocated. Consequently, the use of chemical pesticides has reduced from 61357 MT(technical grade) during 1994-95 to 49157 MT(technical grade) during 1998-99